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Jeffrey R. Oliff
OLIFF & BERRIDGE PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, VA 22320

Dear Mr. Oliff:

This is in response to your communication received 06 December 2006 requesting status of the U.S. national stage application 10/581,892 filed June 6, 2006. As of date, the U.S. Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) presently has a 10-12 month backlog in processing filed U.S. national stage applications.

A request was forwarded to a manger in DO/EO/US to expedite the processing of the above referenced application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ragland".

Mark Ragland
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MSR/MR:mr